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The Courier Leader

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Stermer found guilty of killing husband a second time

A woman accused of killing her husband by setting him on fire and then running him over has been found guilty by a jury in a retrial.

Linda Stermer has been found guilty of two counts of murder, including first-degree murder. The Paw Paw jury deliberated for less than 7 hours before turning in the verdict Friday.

Stermer now faces mandatory life in prison without parole.

Her husband, Todd Stermer, died in 2007 in the yard of their Lawrence Township home. Prosecu-tors said that Stermer doused her husband with gasoline and set him on fire, not long after he learned she was having an extramarital affair. They alleged that she then hit him with a van as he tried to escape.

She was convicted in 2010 and sentenced to life in prison, but a federal appeals court overturned the conviction and ordered a new trial. The court ruled that her trial attorney Jeff Getting — now the Kalamazoo County prosecutor — did not consult an expert to rebut testimony that the fire was arson, not an accident.

Stermer has maintained her innocence, claiming her husband had an oil lamp and candles burn-ing in the house and she accidentally hit him with the van while trying to leave for help.

Her new defense team claims faulty fire science led to a wrongful murder conviction in 2010. The team argued her husband set a house fire himself to get the insurance money and killed himself accidentally.

53 inducted into PPHS National Honor Society

A total of 53 new members were recently inducted into Paw Paw High School National Honor Society. They include: Jacob Ameling, Victor Armijo, Chase Boff, Liliana Brausch, Bella Clemons, Kami Crandall, Kassidy Derhammer, Emma Deuel, Gracie Eagle, Anderson Farnquist, Eric Fitchpatirck, Kylie Fouch, Aaron Garcia, Ezekial Gonzalez, Emma Goodrich, Christian Gorzelanny, Corbin Hayes, Mykalya Hough, Kelsey Hubbell, Kylah Jacobs, Ava Klett, Hayden Lemieux, Sophia Lemieux, Zachary Mahan, Andrew Marler, Brady Meloche, Hailey Miner, Hannah Moore, Benjamin Newell, Kailey Nichols, Madison Osborne, Haydn Perkins, Calvin Ranger, Nyala Resseguie, Adyn Roth, Emily Roy, Bradley Sikkema, Alaylah Sistrunk, Karleigh Stamp, Samantha Tapper, Kaelin Tate, Alyssa Tester, Milagros Verdin, Eliana Verhage, Catherine Vick, Christopher Vogt, Jude Webster, Colton Wheeler, Caleb White, Raina Wiatrolik, Magdalena Willbrandt, Logan Wolfe, and Jordan Zent.

Photo courtesy/Paw Paw Public Schools

Lawton Village Council approves lighting update to baseball/softball complex

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

LAWTON – The Lawton Village Council at its Tuesday, April 8, council meeting, approved lighting updates at the Lawton Youth Baseball and Softball complex.

During Citizen's Comments, Doug Lawrence, representing Lawton Youth Baseball and Softball, provided Lawton Village Council with some updates. He said on Saturday afternoon, April 26, opening day festivities will be held at the complex. He extended an invitation for Village Council President, Josh Appleby and President Pro-Tem, E. Dudek, to throw out the opening pitches.

Lawrence also said Lawton Youth Softball and Baseball is experiencing more vandalism at the site and asked the Lawton Village Police Department for more patrols. The organization also asked the village council's approval to replace some lights in the parking lot and add lighting to the parking lots to help deter vandalism.

In another area, the village council approved a resolution in support of the transfer of a liquor license from Big T to The Breakfast Place, LLC.

The village council approved a quote from Lockmaster Security for $13,295 for cameras at the Lawton Village Hall and Reid's Corner.

The village council approved a renewal of MML Liability for $39,444.

Lawton Village Manager Todd Hackenberg said Village Spring Clean-up will be held May 19-24, and Zoning Solutions will hand out flyers about Spring Clean-up to homes that have been listed for blight.

Donation helps Lawrence to continue Health and Fit class

Following a $500 donation from the Lawrence Alumni Association last year, Lawrence Public Schools teacher Rod Sturgis, is continuing the second year of a Healthy and Fit class for seventh grade students. With the donation, Sturgis was able to purchase pickleball nets and court markers for his class. The nets are portable and can be used inside or outside. During the school year-long class, students are able to take part in other sports, such as volleyball, basketball and soccer. Sturgis said, "It is nice to be able to help take our Healthy and Fit class to the next level. That wouldn't be possible without the Lawrence Alumni Association. Their contributions to not only Healthy and Fit, but also the matching fundraiser I did with Art to Remember, has enabled kids in Lawrence to not only learn the fundamentals of pickleball, but also enjoy art supplies at the elementary level." The Lawrence Alumni Association also partially funded Art to Remember by donating art supplies to Lawrence Elementary School. The alumni association matched up to $500 for the $650 project. Lawrence Public Schools Superintendent Ryan Williamson praised the efforts of the alumni association and Sturgis, saying, "The Alumni Association has been a tremendous help to our students and community and Rod Sturgis is doing some great work with our students in the Healthy and Fit class setting them up for success." Sturgis is shown above, at left, with Lawrence Alumni Association member Sue Conklin and Lawrence Elementary School Principal Ken Mohney

Photo courtesy/Lawrence Public Schools
Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Consumers upgrades in Oshtemo may affect traffic

Consumers Energy is upgrading and installing new natural gas distribution pipelines along key corridors in Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties. These improvements are part of ongoing efforts to enhance the safety, reliability and capacity of the natural gas system in the region.

West Main Project (M-43 Corridor)
What: Installation of a new natural gas distribution pipeline in Oshtemo Township and the City of Kalamazoo
Where:

- South side of M-43/West Main from US-131 to Drake Road
- North side of M-43 from Drake Road to Kendall Avenue

When: Early April through late August
Traffic: Expect single-lane traffic shifts; no full road closures. Electronic signage along Stadium Drive will provide real-time traffic updates. This work is being coordinated with MDOT's construc-tion between 10th Street and Drake Road along M-43 to help manage traffic flow.

Stadium Drive Project
What: Installation of a new natural gas distribution pipeline in Oshtemo and Texas Townships (Kalamazoo County) and Antwerp Township (Van Buren County)
Where: South side of Stadium Drive from 9th Street to Main Street (24th Street) in Mattawan
When: Early April through November
Traffic: Minimal disruptions are expected, with single-lane traffic shifts and no full closures. Electronic signs will be posted along Stadium Drive with up-to-date traffic information. Drivers should follow all construction signage and be cautious around crews.

Fire destroys barn, kills chickens in Casco

Fire destroyed a barn and killed many egg laying-chickens on a farm in Casco Township, Allegan County, early Monday morning.

A passerby reported the fire at 972 68th Street at 5:20 a.m.

SHAES responded with mutual aid from Ganges Township FD. Water needed to be shuttled by tankers to the scene.

The barn was fully engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived. A second barn was protected from flames.

No human injuries were reported.

The cause remains under investigation.

Amish store fire limited to shed

Thanks to quick thinking by Steven Lambright and the response of the Bloomingdale Fire Department, the machanical shed behind the Bloomingdale Bulk Food Store received minimal damage.

By Gari Voss

The Bloomingdale Fire Department responded quickly to a fire at the Bloomingdale Bulk Food Bent N Dent Store on Saturday, April 12, 2025, in the afternoon.

On Saturday, April 12, 2025, at about 5pm, the Bloomingdale Fire Department was called to the Amish Store, aka Bloomingdale Bulk Food Bent N Dent Store, at 44085 County Road 388 west of Bloomingdale. Stephen Lambright was walking to his brother's house to drop off some things and saw smoke coming from the mechanical shed between the back of the store and the silos.

"This did not seem right," shared Stephen. Thinking quickly, Stephen turned off the propane flow and diesel valves that supply fuel to the generators in the shed and called the fire department. In addition, he turned off the breakers to the store.

The Bloomingdale Fire Department arrived within minutes and was able to maneuver the hoses around the silos to the maintenance shed to extinguish the flames. "The firemen tore off the siding to get into the walls," related Stephen.

Some damage occurred to the east and southeast sides of the shed. One of the generators was taken offline for repair, but the second generator was fired up that evening and operating fine.

The fire could have been much worse considering that there are large propane gas and diesel tanks situated less than 100 yards from the source of the fire.

"I took a look to see what could have caused the fire," explained Lambright. "It looks like an exhaust pipe was installed too close to the wood. We will have to do a proper repair, plus repair the other generator."

Neighbors and store customers kept close tabs on the progress of the containment. This is a favorite shopping mart in the area. The fire will not deter store operation.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

County Sheriff's Office Marine Division receives two PWC on loan

Sheriff's Office receives two new PWCs

PAW PAW - Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott announced that the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Marine Division received on loan two new personal watercrafts (PWCs) for South Haven this summer.

Sheriff Abbott said Platinum Powersports, of Coloma loaned the personal watercrafts to the sheriff's office through the Yamaha Law Loan Program. The PWCs will be stationed in South Haven, where their primary use will be for law enforcement patrols and water rescue.

The South Haven Elks Club 1509 made a $500 donation to the marine division to purchase a PWC rescue board that attaches to the back of the jet ski to assist pulling victims out of the water. Sheriff Abbott said PWCs are unique in a way that allows deputies to respond faster, safer and get into shallower areas that regular patrol boats cannot go.

"Last summer, five lives were saved by the Marine Division right off of South Beach. Deputies plan to provide extra patrols in this area during the summer, keeping a watchful eye as people enjoy our beautiful beaches," said Sheriff Abbott.

Sheriff Abbott expressed his gratitude to Platinum Powersports and the South Haven Elks Club for their support and reminds people "to always wear a life jacket and practice safety when enjoying our waters."

Sheriff's Office Central Dispatch reports nearly 3,000 calls received on 911 in March

For the month of March, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response made 471 traffic stops and handled 865 calls for service. In March, Central Dispatch took 8,467 calls, in which 2,911 of those calls came in on 911.

"Uniform Response and our Dive Team assisted Lawrence Police Department on a drowning in the Paw Paw River. Divers were able to locate the 48-year-old victim from Illinois. The victim tried to swim across the river which was very cold and flowing faster than normal due to the amount of rain we've received. The victim went under on the east side of the bridge and was located on the west side of the bridge," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a larceny from a convenience store in Porter Township. Deputies were able to obtain video of the two suspects and their vehicle. Both suspects were identified as was the vehicle involved. "The individuals will now be held accountable for their actions," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response responded to a domestic assault in Keeler Township. "While on scene investigating it, the male suspect became assaultive toward the deputy. The suspect was arrested after a struggle and lodged for the incident, according to Sheriff Abbott.

Detectives from the CID Unit from our office followed up in Benton Harbor about a residence having stolen property from a break-in in Bangor Township. Detectives were able to get consent to search the property and residence and located a full pickup truck load of recovered stolen property. A supplemental report will be done and charges sought for their involvement," said Sheriff Abbott.

Deputies while checking Marketplace Facebook, found an irrigation pump (a rare one) in which they felt may have been one that was stolen in Van Buren County in the fall from Decatur Township, according to Sheriff Abbott. "Detectives followed up on it in Allegan County, and indeed it was the stolen one. The pump was confiscated, and charges were submitted on the suspect who sold it to the subject trying to sell it, unaware it was stolen," said Sheriff Abbott.

On March 30, the evening of the big storm, between the hours of 4 p.m. and midnight, Central Dispatchers took 435 phone calls. "Breaking it down further, 215 of those calls were on 911. There were 163 calls for service, 60 for the fire departments, 67 for law enforcement, 19 for medical, and 19 misc.," said Sheriff Abbott.

Central Dispatcher Chad Kirby received a Life Saving Award for his part in walking a family through CPR on a 911 call. The call was for a one-year-old not breathing. "The child did survive the incident, and Chad played a big role in that," said Sheriff Abbott.

Brown announces re-election bid

Mayor Brown

SOUTH HAVEN - Mayor Annie Brown announced on Friday, April 11, that she will seek re-election as South Haven mayor and outlined her accomplishments and vision for the future.

"I'm proud of the progress made in my first two years as mayor," she said. "We are moving forward with the development of the Overton Site that will provide affordable housing. And we approved an ordinance for short-term rentals."

Mayor Brown said her vision for the next two years includes more housing, job creation, economic development, street improvements, and beach safety.

"We are making progress on affordable housing, and we'll keep working to provide housing for families at all income levels," she said.

Under Brown's leadership, South Haven has seen a plan for housing at the Overton Site, a new ordinance for short-term rentals, and more jobs at local manufacturing companies and the Palisades Nuclear Plant.

Thanks to more than $40 million in grants, South Haven is continuing work to make improvements to water and sewer systems.

"This is an exciting time for South Haven, and I'll keep listening and working tirelessly for the people of South Haven," she said.

In addition to serving on City Council, Brown also serves on the South Haven Housing Commission Board, the Parks Commission, Senior Services of Van Buren County, and is vice chair of United Christian Services of Van Buren County.

Brown was elected in 2023, when she ran against South Haven Council member Joe Reeser and won in a landslide. She previously worked for United States Senator Gary Peters, and served 13 years on the South Haven Board of Education.

Brown and her husband, Jeff Filbrandt, have three grown children.

Lopez named Student of the Month

The Paw Paw Kiwanis Club recently announced that Yasmin Lopez has been named the Paw Paw Kiwanis Club's February Student of the Month. Lopez was nominated by Maria Reo, who said, "Yasmin is a student who exemplifies perseverance. She works incredibly hard in all her classes while also dedicating herself to the school's plays and musicals. Despite facing personal struggles, she never allows them to affect her commitment to her education or her positive influence on those around her. She approaches every challenge with determination and grace, setting an example to her peers of what it means to be both strong and compassionate." Lopez plans to attend Michigan State University, East Lansing, and pursue a degree in Elementary Education. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Thespian group and competitive dance. Shown in photo from left, Mary Hartwell, Kiwanian, Grace Malicki, mother, Yasmin Lopez, student, and Maria Reo, nominating teacher. Photo courtesy/Paw Paw Kiwanis Club

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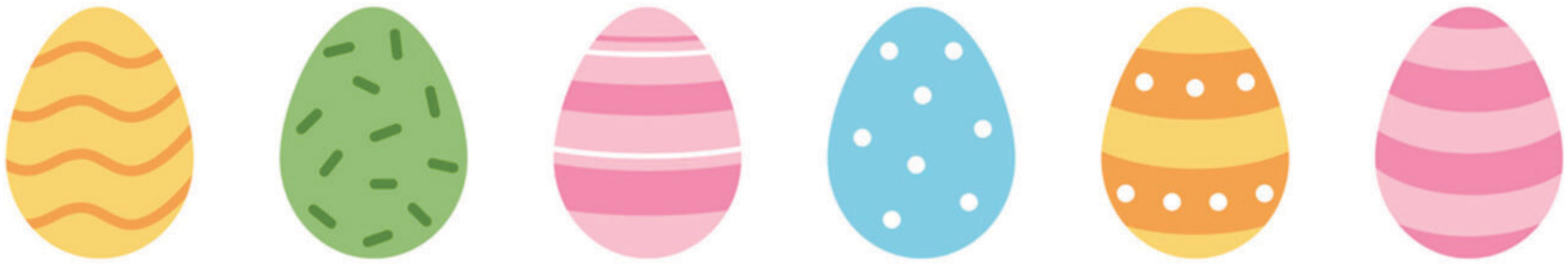

Community Events

Church sponsors Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Egg Hunt at Bethel Baptist Church, 06701 Blue Star Hwy. South Haven, 269-637-2949 will be held April 19, 10 AM for children 2-12 years of age. All are welcome.

Mattawan Lions Club and Mattawan MBA to host Easter events

The Mattawan Lions Club and Mattawan Business Association will host a Community Carnival and Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday April 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Antwerp Activity Center, 24821 Front Ave., Mattawan.

The all-ages community carnival will feature games for 50 cents each, with prceeds going to the Mattawan Lions Club to raise money for community efforts.

At noon, by the Van Buren District Library Antwerp Sunshine Library, children are invited to join the Mattawan Business Association (MBA) in an Easter Egg Hunt.

Paw Paw to hold Community Easter Egg Hunt

The Paw Paw Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 19, at 10:30 a.m., at Kid's Paradise Playground 200 S. Liberty St., Paw Paw. The free event is for children up to 12 years old. Children who find a Golden Ticket will receive a "Great Prize." The event, which will be held rain or shine, will end when supplies are gone. For more information, contact Pastor Maria Bowater at RedArrow Ministries.

Ox Roast & Homecoming Comm. To Sponsor Lawrence Easter Egg Hunt

The Lawrence Ox Roast & Homecoming Committee will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 19, at 11 a.m. in the Lawrence Village Park.

Age group times will be: 0 to 3 at 11:15 a.m.; ages 4 to 6 at 11:30 a.m.; ages 7 to 9 at 11:45 a.m.; and ages 10 to 13 at noon. An egg hunt for special needs will be held at 12:15 p.m.

Crafts and games, sponsored by the Van Buren District Library, Lawrence Branch, will be available in the park during that time.

Van Buren County CROP Walk to be held April 27

PAW PAW – The 43rd annual Van Buren County Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty (CROP) Hunger Walk will be held April 27, at 2 p.m. at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church, 420 Michigan Ave. Registration begins at 1 p.m.

"I think it is important to remind ourselves and those that we are talking to that the need for food and clean water has not disappeared, especially here in Van Buren County. This year, once again, 25 percent of the money raised will stay here in Van Buren County and will be equally split between six area food banks," said Van Buren CROP Walk Chairperson, Tim Davis.

"The steps we take provide life-saving support, including emergency food and resources, as well as seeds, tools, and programs to help families feed themselves in the future," said Davis.

The CROP Hunger Walk is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Services to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world.

For more information, contact Davis at: (269) 998-4268 or by e-mail at: crcdea-con@yahoo.com

Paw Paw Community Chorus Spring Concert to be held May 4

PAW PAW - The Paw Paw Community Chorus will present their annual Spring Con-cert, Sunday, May 4, at 4 p.m., at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church, 420 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw.

The chorus, under the direction of Theresa Vaughn, will be accompanied on piano by Evonne Heystek.

The following selections to be presented by the chorus include: "Appalachian Cele-bration" (Wildwood Flower, He's Gone Away, Sourwood Mountain)/Arr. by Earlene Rentz, "Nine Hundred Miles"/Traditional American Folk Song/Arr. by Philip E. Silvey, "Bring Us Hope" by Ruth Elaine Schram/Samantha Thomas-Cellist, "The Times They Are A-Changin' by Bob

Dylan/Arr. by Adam Podd, "1650 Broadway" (Splish Splash, Love Potion Number 9, Poison Ivy, Yakety Yak, There Goes My Baby and Stupid Cupid) Arr. by Roger Emerson, "You Are My Hero" by Ruth Elaine Schram, "Puttin' On The Ritz" by Irving Berlin/Arr. By Kirby Shaw, "You Made Me Love You" by Joe McCarthy and James Monaco/Arr. by Jay Althouse, "Folk Song Suite" arranged by Jay Althouse.

Members of the chorus are Jennifer Antisdale, Barb Bryant, Bill Buhl, Leslie Buhl, Denise Campagna, Jackie Coons, Darrel Drummond, Becky Elmore, Danny Goff, Judith Halseth, Linda Hassler, Sue Knudstrup, Mary Leeson, Jane Makowski, Wynonia Mankow-ski, Joy Martin, Jon Mills, Kathy McCloskey, Stephen McCloskey, Margaret McNeil, Viva Nelson, Jan Ogden, Lenore Orozco, Loise Perkins, Cayla Perry, Pat Peters, E. Ike Porter, Joy Porter, Lois Richardson, Connie Ruch, Bruce Safbom, Leonda Kessinger Shroyer, Michele Si-vley, Gerry Stackhouse, Marlene Stoops, Doris Stratton, Anna Vervoort, Steven Vornsand, Kathy Weisner, Caleb Whitfield, Grace Zimmerman, and Eleda Zygadlo.

Although there is no admission charge to this concert, voluntary donations are very much appreciated.

Hand to Hand benefit concert planned

PAW PAW - A benefit concert May 18, featuring local musicians will see those funds go to feed students in need within the Paw Paw School District.

The concert will be held from noon to 7 p.m. at Paw Paw Brewing Company featuring seven different musical acts. They include:

Calvin Hinds and Lexi Adams – noon to 1 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Band - 1 to 1:50 p.m.
The Gun River Band - 1:50 to 2:40 p.m.
Ethan Martin - 2:40 to 3:30 p.m.
Garrett Meachum - 3:30 to 4:20 p.m.
Blue Train Organ Trio - 4:20 to 6 p.m.
Greg Cordes - 6 to 7 p.m.

Van Buren County Museum to Hold Yard Sale April 26

HARTFORD - The Van Buren County Museum will hold a yard sale, April 26, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.at the museum, 58471 Red Arrow Highway, Hartford, featuring donated furniture, books, household items, tools and other odds and ends. The rain date for the yard sale will be Saturday, May 3.

The museum season starts May 1. An ice cream social event will be held at the museum on Sunday, May 4, from 2 to 5 p.m. Old time games and exhibits will be set up.

A volunteer orientation will be held May 10, from 10 a.m. to noon for those interested in serving as a museum volunteer. Museum personnel will explain different ways in which individuals can help at the museum that is tailored to their interests or capabilities.

For more information, call (269) 621-2188.

Senior expo to be held in Mattawan May 5th

MATTAWAN - The Mattawan Lions Club will host a Senior Veteran Expo, Monday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Antwerp Activity Center, 24821 Front Ave., Mattawan.

The site will have up to 50 vendors, and free giveaways. Also, a mobile Secretary of State (SOS) will be available. For this, individuals will need to register in advance by calling (269) 668-2615 ext. 208.

Individuals needing a ride can call (269) 427-7921 and schedule two weeks in advance.

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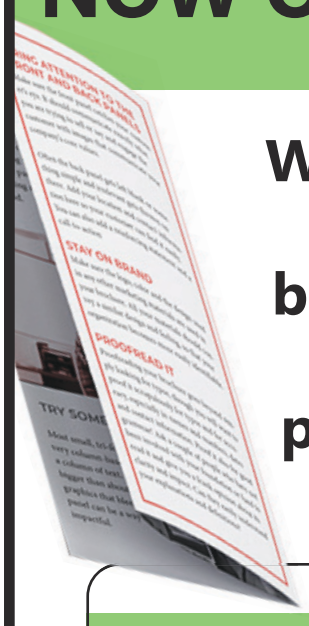

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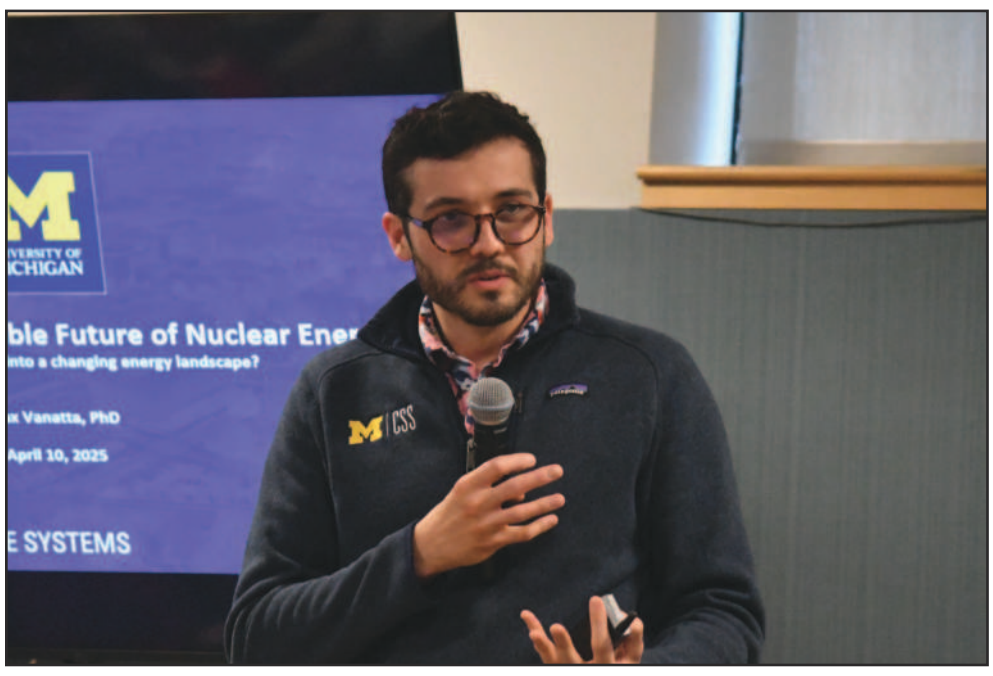
Speaker Series speaker focuses on risks and rewards of nuclear power



Dr. Max Vanatta

James Windell

In a presentation at Lake Michigan College, Dr. Max Vanatta underscored the risks and rewards of nuclear power. Emphasizing that nuclear energy is a valuable resource, Vanatta also spelled out the risks and challenges associated with nuclear power.

The topic of nuclear energy attracted an audience of more than 100 people on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at the South Haven Speakers Series' first talk of its 11th season.

With the nearby Palisades Nuclear Power Plant scheduled for reopening within the next year, the current interest in a nuclear power plant retooling and reopening was evident by the size of the audience.

Vanatta, from the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability, said in opening his presentation that the public perception of the use of nuclear energy has been largely shaped by high profile nuclear disasters. Reviewing the tragedies of Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima Daiichi, Vanatta said that these were not disasters of nuclear energy, but "they were disasters of policy, design and operation of these plants." He went on to say that while he wasn't minimizing the human toll of these disasters, "They are not unique to nuclear energy but are part of larger systemic failures."

Explaining how nuclear energy works, Vanatta indicated that advances in building nuclear energy makes nuclear power plants safer than in the past.

He pointed out that the Palisades Nuclear Plant will be utilizing small modular reactors (SMRs). "SMRs are designed to be safe," he said, adding, "preventing disasters was critical for SMRs design from the beginning."

One of the advantages of SMRs, he said, is that "You don't have to worry about on-site construction errors because they are all built in factories." Furthermore, he said, SMRs are underground so there is much more containment of nuclear waste. Although SMRs are expensive, they haven't been built yet, so, he quipped, "They are going to come in under budget – although they are very expensive." Nonetheless, he added that SMRs are a great opportunity for the future.

Vanatta's doctoral dissertation states that the U.S. has not yet deployed its first SMR due to high costs and complexity. However, new research from the University of Michigan suggests that SMRs could become economically viable by 2050.

Vanatta pointed out that costs for building conventional nuclear power plants have ballooned while he also indicated that licensing of nuclear power plants is an intensive process. He said that licensing is a very complex topic and while a rigorous process, "It is designed to ensure safety."

During the question-and-answer portion of the evening, Vanatta was asked what there is about nuclear energy that keeps him awake at night. His response was not about the safety of nuclear power plants or the problems of disposing of nuclear waste. Instead, he said: "It's how we are able to bring together all the different aspects of the system. We have all of these technologies and we have many options, but we just need to use them and connect with them. We need to connect the technology and the policies with the social systems around us."

South Haven not ready to select prosecuting attorney yet

By James Windell

South Haven has had its own prosecuting attorney on staff for many years – until attorney Mark A. Manning indicated he was ready to give up the position several months ago.

"The City has had an independent prosecuting attorney since the late 1990's when former City Manager Al Vandenberg hired Attorney Mark Manning," explains City Manager Kate Hosier. According to Hosier, Manning has handled blight and zoning code complaints as well as violations of city ordinances.

On February 11, 2025 a Request for Proposals for Prosecuting Attorney Services was published by South Haven city staff, and the RFP requested law firms to respond by March 14.

The city received two submissions to become the new prosecuting attorney for South Haven. One was from Bloom Sluggett, a Grand Rapids law firm with experience in representing governmental and public agencies, and the second was from Bauckman Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches P.C., a Portage law firm, with experience in working with courts.

Prior to 1994, the vast majority of ordinances passed by municipalities were prosecuted as criminal offenses – and that usually meant that the county prosecuting attorney decided how those cases would be handled. However, since 1994, ordinance enforcement has expanded to include municipal civil infractions and blight violations. Currently, the options available to a municipality have broadened so that certain municipal ordinance violations can be prosecuted as municipal civil infractions.

Hosier says that the City of South Haven needs a prosecuting attorney to prosecute code of ordinance infractions, such as entering the Pier after its closed, disorderly conduct, and so on. In addition, the prosecuting attorney would deal with zoning code complaints and blight tickets. "The Van Buren County Prosecutors Office prosecutes state statutes but not city ordinances," says Hosier.

Mark Manning adds that a city like South Haven needs a prosecutor because violations of the City's ordinances "might get lost in the shuffle" if they are sent to the county prosecutor's officer. However, Manning also said that he has handled 300 to 600 criminal cases a year and there for a separate attorney, aside from the city's attorney, is required.

Manning said that if there is proof beyond a reasonable doubt of the violation of an ordinance, action will be initiated by issuance of a complaint and warrant, and then the case is dealt with either in the 7th District Court or in the Circuit Court in Van Buren County.

During the April 7, 2025, South Haven City Council meeting the council discussed the two law firms that submitted proposals for prosecuting attorney. Although there was no opposition to the hiring of a prosecuting attorney for the city, there was discussion of the two RFPs for the position. The views of the City Council fell into two camps: Those who favored Bloom Sluggett and those who preferred Bauckman Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches.

Those who favored Bloom Sluggett did so for two basic reasons. "We have a relationship with them," councilman Jeff Arnold said referring to Bloom Sluggett, while another council member also stated that this law firm seems to know what the City Council's needs are. On the other hand, those favoring Bauckman Thall appeared to have issues with Bloom Sluggett. Councilman Joe Reeser put it into words when he said, "Bloom didn't meet all the requests of the City Council." Councilwoman Mary Hosely also preferred Bauckman Thall because "they have experience in Van Buren County." Reeser added another reason he preferred Bauckman Thall when he said, "We should have another firm because we don't want to put it all under one roof."

Reeser made a motion that the council accept the bid of Bauckman Thall. A roll call vote ended in a three-way tie and the motion failed. There was no discussion as to what would happen next in terms of hiring a new prosecuting attorney for the city.

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VIEWPOINT

Give tariffs a chance, they may work

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

Let's give the tariffs time to work. If they don't work I will be the first to admit I was wrong. President Trump seems to be backing off his hardline positions with a 90-day reprieve for most, and taking tariffs off cellphones, electronics and associated items made in China. I think that is a good move and if we can cut deals with the 75 or so larger traders the U.S. buys and sells to, then this country will be far better off.

The tariffs make sense. If China charges us a 100% tariff, then it's only fair that we charge them one. The same goes for Canada, Mexico, Vietnam and all the others. If they want to charge us 40% then it's only fair that we charge them the same. What is good for the goose is good for the gander.

Higher prices may come for a while. Foreign car dealerships are going to feel the pinch. But the good news for consumers is that the price of gas should come down substantially.

People are worried about buying cheap stuff from China at Walmart or Amazon or any other country. Others are upset that Amazon and Temu purchases my be higher. I honestly don't want stuff from China. If China never ships another thing here it wouldn't bother me. Sadly, everything we own today is, in some way, likely tied to a foreign country including consumer goods, prescriptions and grocery store items.

My friend Dr. Glenn Mollett relates when he was a kid, he had a transistor radio made in Hong Kong. He thought it was funny to have such an item made from so far away. Throughout the years, he said however, it became the norm. Cars, televisions, furniture, appliances and steel started coming from other places. Sadly, our American manufacturers were moving to Mexico, or any country on the planet where they could find slave labor. This turned into big profit for them because they shipped the goods cheaply back to the United States and made big profits. The problem was that those jobs were forever lost in America. The American workers had to go out and find jobs at Walmart and Starbucks making $10 an hour which today is more like $15 to $18. They had been used to making $35 or $40 an hour before their job moved out of America.

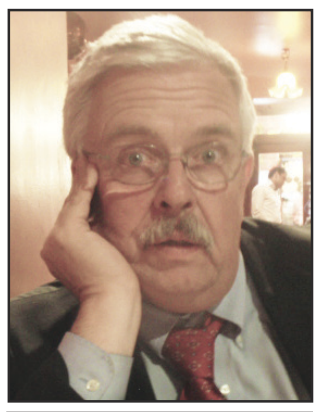
Mollett continued, "Back in the fifties, sixties and even seventies people could go to one of the big cities in their state and find a good paying manufacturing job. There were lots of jobs. We made a lot of cars, televisions, radios, clothes, furniture, steel, lumber, and had coal mining and much more. These people made enough money to buy a house, buy two cars, buy food, raise their kids and have a real retirement after working 30 years. That was called the American dream.

Today the American dream for many is applying for disabled Social Security and then praying that you can afford to go to Walmart. Don't even think about buying a new car, a new house or taking a vacation because on today's income it is not going to happen."

He's right. Let's try to keep breathing and see how these tariffs play out. We need jobs to come back to America. We need our own companies to come home. We need to buy our own American steel and make things here once again. If other countries will come to America and build their products here and hire our people that will be a good thing.

Just maybe, in a few years, once again, people in America will dream again.

Life as Performance Art



G CORWIN STOPPEL

Sometimes we learn more about ourselves and our fu-ture by looking back in histo-ry.

Today, we go back about a century to the Roaring '20s. Babe Ruth is slamming home runs, the Four Horse-men are playing for Knute Rockne at Notre Dame, the Charleston is all the rage and the stock market is going up. So was the water level in the Mississippi River basin.

The winter of 1926-27 had seen an unusually heavy snowfall, and then came a warm spring which caused it to melt rapidly. The Missis-sippi was flooding from Minnesota south, and prob-lems were made worse when the Missouri and Ohio riv-ers, along with smaller tribu-taries, all came together. The huge levees on both sides of the Mississippi were not enough to stop the flooding.

Governors all along the Mississippi River begged the federal government to do something, but President Calvin Coolidge, who had been ruthlessly cutting de-partment budgets and pay-rolls, announced that the flooding was a state, not federal problem. He was not being inordinately cruel. Since the nation's founding, flooding and many other problems were state respon-sibilities.

It was soon more than a matter of too much water. Sharecroppers and small farmers in the lower Missis-sippi Valley, many of whom were African Americans, were ordered to move onto the levies to help strengthen them. The Ku Klux Klan took advantage of the crisis and agitated for more restric-tive Jim Crow Laws

The Red Cross did what it could, but this disaster was beyond their means. Will Rogers held fundraisers but much more was needed. Still the President refused to act. Only one Cabinet member traveled to the lower Mid-west — the obscure Com-merce Secretary Herbert Hoover. He was proclaimed a humanitarian, a man with a heart, compassion and empathy. Hoover was elect-ed President the next year.

Unfortunately he was an engineer, not an economist, which meant he was out of his depth when it came to understanding the national economy. We will remember it was during his tenure that America suffered from the Great Depression.

Whenever Hoover tried to remedy the problem, the Senate blocked him, using the old rallying cry, "Not our responsibilities. Let the Wall Street bankers handle it."

That hands-off approach came to an abrupt end when Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to the White House. Among the programs he started was Social Security. The goal was to give people over 65 a small pension to make life easier.

Before then, anyone who was out of money and need-ed help applied to their local officials hoping to get a bed in the county poor farm. Social Security was meant to help them live a dignified last few years before dying.

A year or so later, FDR launched the Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps. People were hired to paint murals, write travel books about our national parks, and work on those parks and elsewhere. They received food, board and minimal pay, but they were working.

This mattered because fi-nally the U.S. seemed to have a genuine heart for the wellbeing of all its citizens, not just the wealthy. Later, the same principle applied to the GI B\benefits offered to all the men and women who served in uniform during World War II. They could apply and get free college or trade school education and a subsistence allowance. The result was one of the greatest booms in the American economy.

A more-recent place where we have seen America with a heart is passage of the Amer-icans with Disabilities Act. We see it near daily at inter-sections where sharp curbs which can be insurmounta-ble for some people have been replaced by ramps. The message is clear that every-one's included here.

What's truly alarming is the nastiness we hear and read all the time. We've had gov-ernment and business leaders who have been cal-lous, uncaring, clueless and unsophisticated.

To my knowledge, none of them mocked the handi-capped, women, people of color, alternate genders or poor. None before now called American prisoners of war "losers" or mocked the men and women of our armed forces for their loyalty and service. When one indi-vidual or a group is hurt by this sort of babble, we are all hurt.

Do you remember the 1941 Gary Cooper film, "Meet John Doe"? It's a dark com-edy where one man led a nationwide movement by speaking up for the nameless common man "John Doe." It registered with people and many rose up to take action. They organized John Doe Clubs whose sole purpose was to look after their neigh-bors, care for them and do the right thing.

The politicians and oli-garchs did not like this movement and tried to si-lence Cooper and his follow-ers. They wanted to keep all power, wealth and control for themselves.

Sometimes it looks like his-tory is repeating itself. What we can do right now is take even better care of our neighbors, be kind, caring and compassionate to all.

Our country was built on those good traits long before the government got in-volved. We surprised guests from Europe by being a vol-unteer nation, building our own churches and schools without waiting for the gov-ernment. We raised money when another community was in desperate straits. If we can do something good for others, that's our job.

So turn off the TV and computer and quit watching alarmist click bait headlines. Enough with all the propa-ganda from both sides and ads trying to scare us into buying their goods and ser-vices.

It's time that we get on with our lives and become the best person possible. No law or power can stop us from caring for others.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader says we all need to be vaccinated

Hi Mr. Wilcox,

I read your recent editorial on vaccine hysteria, causing me to look up a few facts.

The CDC states that, among reported measles cases each year prior to the vaccine, an estimated 400 to 500 kids died and 48,000 were hospitalized.

Regarding rubella, according to the Mayo clinic, up to 90% of infants born to mothers who had rubella during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy develop congenital rubella syndrome. If the fetus survives, the syndrome causes various organ problems and lifelong misery.

The vaccine for measles and rubella stopped all of that suffering. But now it has somehow become fashionable to be a vaccine sceptic. As COVID taught us, you may be healthy enough to survive the illness, but if you get the vaccine you won't pass it along to someone who can't. Over 1.2 million people died from COVID. If we lined the dead guys up end-to-end they would stretch from southwest Michigan to Miami. How many of these dead people caught COVID from someone who was unvaccinated?

Bottom line: Please do mankind a favor and encourage people to get vaccinated.

Justin Aguy

Reader says Hands Off protest is ridiculous

Dear Editor:

The recent Hands Off protest in Paw Paw appears to have been quite an event. Seems the only things missing were clown cars and dancing witches.

My first observation is that like most current protests of the left it's funded by a national organization, since there is little grass roots support for the views of the progressive left. Indivisible is the organization responsible for the nationwide Hands Off protests. The primary financial backer of Indivisible is that mad cap anarchist George Soros. Indivisible's partner organizations are the Democratic Socialists of America, ACLU and MoveOn.org to name a few. One would be hard pressed to unite a group more hostile to everything that represents the very foundation of American ideals. This is easily recognized by the fact that every protest issue they raised has no factual basis.

Having temper tantrums and calling everyone they don't like a Nazi is getting a little old. Its shameless to minimize the atrocities of Nazi Germany by overusing the title so senselessly. Then there are the lies that President Trump will destroy Medicaid, Medicare, education and so much more. Thanks to DOGE, funding may be available for these and many other government programs. Whereas under the Obama and Biden regimes these and most other federal programs were never sustainable. It's curious that Elon Musk who a short time ago was the darling of the left is now held in such distain by the same group. None of his business activities have changed, he just realized that he was betting on the wrong horse.

One statement made by Kalamazoo County Democrat Party Chair Justin Mendoza was true though when he said "We have to remember that none of this is normal." I have to agree, not in our lifetime have we seen an American president so actively attempt to reduce the size of the federal government and hold the federal government accountable for expenditures. Our founders intended that the federal government be small and as Thomas Jefferson stated, that federal spending should always be "wise" and "frugal".

As in the 2024 general elections the democrats are asking any registered democrat they can to run for public office. It doesn't matter if they are qualified for a specific office or not. It is such destructive tactics that have resulted in the elections of such unworthy, intellectually stunted clowns like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Jasmine Crockett and far too many others.

Now progressives are talking about protecting our Constitution, Bill of Rights and the rule of law. The Obama and Biden regimes proved that they care nothing for these or any other American principles or the rule of law. They saw to it that ship sailed.

Despite the democrat's election fraud in our 2024 general elections, Donald Trump was elected by the vast majority of American voters. He is doing nothing now that he didn't campaign on and it's those campaign promises that placed him in the White House.

Hopefully the American voters will not forget the financial and political carnage wrought by the Obama and Biden years. The childish and untruthful rantings of the new democrats are tiresome and we all know just where they will take our nation should they regain the presidency or legislative majority. It's like giving a teenager a bottle of tequila and the car keys. You don't know exactly how it's going to end up, but you know it's going to make the papers.

John R. Young

THE COURIER LEADER
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OBITUARIES

Paul Frederick Staniszewski

Paul Frederick Staniszewski, 77, of Paw Paw, passed away on April 6, 2025, surrounded by his family and friends. He was born Feb. 13, 1948, to the late John and Eleanor Staniszewski in Lawrence, Michigan.

Paul spent many years managing Shangri-La Resort on Three Mile Lake, Paw Paw, and served as the head of maintenance at Paw Paw Public Schools for 32 years.

Paul is survived by his daughter, Angela Staniszewski; and her children, Jade Johnson, Ayanah Edwards, Kadin Edwards, and Xavier Edwards of Normal, Illinois; along with his great-grandchildren, Navy Davis, Ryen Keith, Noah Ayers, and Giana Edwards; Skyler Hall of Palmetto, Florida; Megan Myrick of Kalamazoo, Michigan; his brother, John Staniszewski of Aiken, South Carolina; his brother, Dominic (Carolyn) Staniszewski of Rosharon, Texas; his sister, Rebecca "Becky" Loveless of Mattawan, Michigan; his four-legged companion, Cat; his loving friends and caretakers, Kevin and Shannon Oxley of Paw Paw, Fidel, Maria, Fidel Manuel III, Giovani, and Damien Solis, of Paw Paw, and Luke Butler of Paw Paw. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Paul was preceded in death by his daughter, Tiffany Leigh Tate; his twin brother, Charles "Chuck" Staniszewski; his brother, Anthony "Tony" Staniszewski; and his sister, Judy Gauthier.

Paul served his country in the United States Army as a sergeant and was a military working dog handler for Vietnam K-9 soldiers. He received the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Badge, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal before being honorably discharged in August 1968.

For over 40 years, Paul ran Shangri-La Resort on Three Mile Lake, where he took great pride in renting out the cabins and maintaining the grounds. Guests enjoyed fishing, boating, swimming, and gathering around the bonfires, and Paul welcomed multiple generations of families from the local area and Chicago. In addition to his work at the resort, Paul was a dedicated farmer, spending long hours planting crops and regularly donating to those in need. He was always ready to lend a hand, whether helping friends fix something or offering a loan of a dime or two.

One of Paul's most cherished roles was his work as the head of maintenance at Paw Paw Public Schools, where he worked for 32 years. Paul was known for his ability to fix anything-whether it was floors, roofs, or playground equipment. He took pride in keeping the school grounds immaculate. During his time there, Paul formed many lifelong friendships and treated each student like his own child, offering kindness, a firm but loving voice, and a caring presence. The students gave him the nickname of "Mr. Pinkelman." He remained connected with many students and faculty over the years, whether through visits to the lake, chance encounters at the hardware store, or meetings at the grocery store.

Paul enjoyed visiting local hardware stores to pick up supplies and spending time at Teapot Dome for coffee with friends. He was an exceptional man - kind, sincere, and tireless in his work. His legacy of generosity and warmth will live on in the memories of everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

In place of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Eleanor's Pantry, 221 Drew St., Paw Paw, MI, 49079; American Legion Post 68, 115 N Niles St., Paw Paw, MI, 49079-1304; the Animal Rescue Project, 219 Peekstok Drive, Kalamazoo, MI, 49001; or a charity of the donor's choice.

A celebration of Paul's life will be held in July at the family farm.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at: adamspawpaw.com

Anne Frances Arthur

Anne Frances Arthur, 66, died Thursday, March 20, 2025, at her home in Lawrence, Michigan. Anne was born on Aug. 9, 1958, in Royal Oak, MI, to her parents, Sarah and Marcus Arthur.

She moved to west Michigan after high school and lived in Kalamazoo, then Lawrence, for the rest of her days. She was briefly married to David Dombrowski, a union which produced two children, Matthew and Jennifer Dombrowski. After the end of that marriage, she took night classes to get a degree in mechanical engineering, which led to her 20-year career with the Upjohn company, doing design and management of the pharmaceutical manufacturing lines in their plant in Portage, MI. She retired early after Upjohn was bought by Pfizer in 2002.

Anne was endlessly curious about the way things worked, both in the physical and mental realm. Her work involved continuous problem solving and creation of pieces, parts, and processes to make things work. In her later years, these skills were applied to maintaining her home, her land, and her tractor. She managed a flock of chickens for over a decade, who benefitted from her continual improvement of their coop, run, and feeding and watering stations. She was curious about what made people tick and, while she was truly an introvert and spent the vast majority of her time alone, she liked to understand people and see them for who they are. She was an avid reader her whole life and appreciated a good story with complicated characters and loved a good turn of phrase. Her bright mind and her dry humor were appreciated by many.

Anne is survived by her daughter, Jen Dombrowski, her sister, Betsy Fernandez, and her brother, Skip Arthur.

$10,000 prize is gifted to local non-profit

A team of talented, local estheticians achieved recognition at an esteemed international skincare competition, with one area woman receiving top honors in a competition, and in doing so, donated her winnings - $10,000 to Luc's Light, a non-profit teen art and music center in Paw Paw.

The Chelsea Skin Collective team brought home multiple awards across various categories at The Skin Games held last month in Atlanta, Georgia. Their achievements highlight their dedication, skill, and compassion in the field of esthetics; a booming industry that transforms skin health and confidence through advanced treatments and expert care.

Esthetics is more than just skin care it's science, artistry, and wellness combined, according to Leigh Schincariol, a licensed esthetician at Chelsea Skin Collective.

"Professional estheticians specialize in analyzing, treating, and improving skin through cutting-edge techniques, from advanced corrective treatments for pigmentation and aging to holistic approaches that nourish skin from within," said Schincariol.

Schincariol was a five-time award winner, including:

- First Place in Compassion
- Third Place in Compromised Skin
- Second Place in Pigmentation
- Top 10 in Holistic Skincare
- Top 10 in Age Management

Schincariol was also awarded a $10,000 grand prize in the compassion category. She then gave her winnings to Luc's Light, a non-profit teen art and music center in Paw Paw that offers protective factors as well as tools to explore and develop artistic and musical talents in a safe and supportive environment, all at no cost to the students.

"This $10,000 gift will help fund expanded programming, equipment, and the upkeep of our newly acquired property at 507 East Michigan Ave., (formerly the Outpouring Cafe) further investing in the lives of Van Buren County teens," said Trino, volunteer president of Luc's Light.

"The Compassion category is a way for fellow estheticians to show how they give back in unique ways to their community. I was up against some truly incredible individuals - each with their own powerful story. To be chosen as the grand prize winner is deeply humbling.

"Luc's Light Teen Center holds a very special place in my heart and soul. Being able to donate $10,000 is a way to keep Luc's legacy alive, so that others may continue to benefit from his light," said Schincariol, volunteer vice president of Luc's Light and Luc's mother.

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SPORTS

Paw Paw back set for Michigan Tech

Paw Paw's PJ DeYoung will be playing football at Michigan Tech.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — PJ DeYoung is now getting ready for a college football career.

The standout Paw Paw running back recently announced he would be playing football at Michigan Tech in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletics Conference.

"The academics are really good there," he said. "Everyone I talked to was nice. The players were nice too. It felt almost like a new home."

DeYoung earlier this year had a visit to Tech.

"They texted me on twitter," he said. "I started texting back to coaches."

He was a running back and linebacker for Paw Paw.

"For college I'm being recruited to play running back," DeYoung said, adding that when it comes to offering Tech some of his various skills on the gridiron, it would be my mental toughness and willingness to work hard and do whatever I can for the team."

As for the 2025 fall season, "they said then would probably redshirt me the first year," DeYoung said. He will spend his first year working to get stronger and learn the system.

DeYoung anticipates entering some type of engineering curriculum at MTU. He's excited with the future. "Since flag football in the third grade I always told myself I wanted to at least play Division II football. I'm thankful for this opportunity," DeYoung said, adding of three schools he had a chance to attend, "Michigan Tech made the most sense to me I enjoyed the coaching staff and players I talked to."

DeYoung is playing golf at Paw Paw right now. It's a change from baseball as a spring sport.

Lawton soccer team wins

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Lawton came away with the win on Monday against Watervliet 3-1.

Sophomore Allyson French, Senior Tiara Ellis and Freshman Addy Miller each scored a goal to lead Lawton to victory. Assisting those goals are Junior Taylor Whipple, Sophomore Jaelyn Auton and Junior Maya.

Lawton will take on Bridgman at home on Wednesday.

On Thursday, it was a huge team win against Coloma 8-0.

Emma Hackenberg and Alyssa McNally both record the shutout in goal.

Lots of shooting opportunities tonight with several players recording goals. Freshman Addy Miller with 1, Sophomore Jaelyn Auton with 2, Sophomore Allyson French with 1, Senior Alyssa McNally with 1 and Senior Tiara Ellis with 3.

Seniors Tiara Ellis and Alyssa McNally each had one assist and Junior Maya Tag also records an assist.

"The team worked well together and moved the ball well tonight. Great work ladies," coach Abigail Burris said.

Local players are All-Staters

Ly'Nique Cunningham has been named to the Division 2 All-State Girls Basketball all-state team by the Michigan Sports Writers last week.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

South Haven sophomore point guard Ly'Nique Cunningham has been named to the Division 2 All-State Girls Basketball all-state team by the Michigan Sports Writers last week.

As a sophomore Cunningham surpassed 1,000 career points as an underclassman.

Paw Paw's AJ Rickli, was named to the All-State first team. For girls

For the boys, Paw Paw's Truman Brennan also earned All-State honors for Division 2 second team.

Cunningham had 27 points, six rebounds and two assists per game in earning All-SAC honors.

It's not common for a high school basketball player to reach 1,000 points as a senior.

It's very rare for he or she to do it as a junior.

It's incredibly rare for he or she to do it as a sophomore.

But Cunningham accomplished that feat as a sophomore when she helped her team defeat Holland on Feb. 27.

Cunningham scored 28 points and had nine rebounds, five steals and two assists. Molly Verseput had 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Cunningham also had a big game when her team beat Berrien Springs 48-46. She had 32 points, six steals, three rebounds, and two assists.

Rickli became the all-time career scoring leader for Paw Paw girls varsity basketball during the season.

Paw Paw baseball is now 4-4

By John Raffel

Varsity baseball traveled to Three Rivers Friday to open conference play. The DH ended in a split for two tightly contested games. In Game No. 1 the Red Wolves outhit the Wildcats but just couldn't get the key hit and lost a close one 3-1.

Andrew Lehto pitched 4 strong innings, allowed 4 hits, 2 ER, and struckout 5. Leading the offense was Ryan Holmes. Ryan went 2-4. Andrew added an RBI single. Carson DeYoung, Landon Buhl, and Caden Bowen each added singles.

In Game No. 2 the Red Wolves jumped on the Wildcats early and held on to a nailbiter for a 6-5 victory. Gunnar Goodell got the win on the mound going 5 tough innings, allowed 2 ER, 5 hits, and struckout 5.

"Landon pitched the final 2 innings, struckout 3, and ended the game with a bases-loaded strikeout. Ryan kept swinging the hot stick going 2-4 again. Landon crushed a clutch 2 RBI double. Andrew added a single and an RBI," coach Derek Vanderburg said. "Bryn Carlsen added a deep double in his 3 at bats. Maverick Johnson added a single and BB. Caden had 3 BB, an RBI, and a game saving catch in left/center gap to protect a two run lead.

Varsity Baseball had a busy weekend traveling to the Williamston Invite Saturday. In Game No. 1 the Red Wolves squared off against State ranked Williamston. The Red Wolves jumped out to an early lead but Williamston pulled out a 6-5 victory in the last inning. Bryn Carlsen had the hot bat going 2-2 with a double and 2 RBI's. Andrew went 2-3 and Ryan was 1-2 with an RBI, 2 BB, and 2 SB. Caden and Landon each added singles.

In Game No. 2 the Red Wolves played Kalkaska. The Red Wolves scored early and often while cruising to a 20-3 victory. Remi Dempsey was dominant on the mound and at the plate. Remi pitched 4 innings, allowed 1 hit, 0 ER, and 6 K's. Remi went 3-4 with a deep double and 4 RBI's.

Andrew went 4-4 with 2 SB, BB, and 3 RBI's. Gunnar went 2-4 with a double, BB, 2 SB, and 2 RBI's. Caden went 2-4, BB, 2 SB, and 2 RBI's. Gavin Allers was 2-4 with an RBI. Grant Sholander, Hayden Criger, Ryan, and Landon each added a hit and a RBI.

The Red Wolves are now 4-4 on the season.

Upcoming games: April 15th- home DH vs. Plainwell; April 18th- home DH vs. Parchment

AREA CHURCH SERVICES

PAW PAW

ALMENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
27503 CR 375
Pastor Len Schoenherr
668-2811 • www.almenaumc.com
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
(Childcare Provided)
FRIDAY: AA- 8 p.m.

••••

COVEY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
33566 28th Avenue
(corner of 28th & M-40)
269-628-2139 • www.coveyhill.org
Pastor Daniel Wilson
SUNDAY
Worship @10:45am
Nursery & Children's Church provided
Messages available on YouTube

••••

FAITH OF THE APOSTLES CURCH
34580 M-40 Highway
Elder David Harn
1 (269) 512-4586
SUNDAY
Christian Education - 10 a.m.
Wroship Service - 11:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY • Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
32464 Red Arrow
Pastor Horace M. "Buddy" Turner... 657-2090
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
on Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/buddyturner2 or search:
"Buddy Turner"

••••

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
120 Pine St, Paw Paw
Worship: 11am Sundays
in person or online at -
www.pawpawpres.com or
www.youtube.com/@1stprespawpaw

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NEW HOPE FAMILY
201 W. Michigan Avenue
Pastor Mark Roberts
www.newhopefellowship.org
SUNDAY
Morning Worship - 10 a.m.

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PAW PAW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CURCH
60409 South M-40
Pastor Sean Reed
Lawn Services - 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.pawpaw.church
Oline worship services on Facebook &
YourTube

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PAW PAW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
657-7727 • 420 W. Michigan Ave.
Pastor Dan Phillips
SUNDAY Service: 10:00 am

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RED ARROW MINISTRIES
31133 Red Arrow Highway
Rev. G. Ben Bowater, IV Founding Pastor
SUNDAY Worship - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.redarrowministries.org for live stream
worship

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ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
412 Cedar Street
Handicap Accessible
657-3762 • www.stmarkpawpaw.com
e-mail: stmarkspawpaw@gmail.com
Mailing Address:
P.O.Box 307, Paw Paw, MI 49079
SUNDAY Worship 9:30 a.m.

••••

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
500 Paw Paw Street
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
657-4459
SATURDAY Vigil - 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY MASSES - 9AM & 11AM
Holy days & Daily Masses
Consult Bulletin

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
721 Pine Street
Pastor Phillip Phifer
Church: 657-4840
School: 657-5921
Sunday Services 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

••••

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32560 56th Ave. • 657-5042
www.truthchurchpawpaw.com
Pastor Steven Green
SUNDAY
School - 10 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 p.m.
THURSDAY Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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IGLESIA DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO/ CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
30037 E Red Arrow Hwy., Bilingual
Pastors Maggie and Jay Salas
Domingo/Sunday:
Adoración | Worship- 10 a.m.
Jueves/Thursday: Oracion/ Estudió Bíblico |
Prayer/Bible Study- 7 p.m.
(269) 377-6514/ (269) 993-6727

LAWTON

DAILY HARVEST MINISTRIES
117 S.Franklin Street
Pastor Jack Shanley
SUNDAY Worship - 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Bible Study - 6 p.m.

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IGLESIA PENTECOSTES
Eel Movimiento misionero Mundial, Inc.
Bilingual
117 S. Franklin Street
Pastors Arturo & Lourdez Hernandez
(616) 656-0137
SERVICES
Domingo - 9:30 a.m.
Martes y Jueves - 7:30 p.m.
Local: (269) 655-8071

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(269) 299-2003

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624-1050
Pastor Ashlei Horn
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www.stpoulsumclawton.com or on Facebook
www.Facebook.com/Lawton-St-Pauls-UMC

MARCELLUS

ST. MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
296 E. Dibble St.
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
668-3312
SUNDAY - 9:45AM

••••

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Worship 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study &
Prayer 5:00 p.m.
facebook.com/DecaturBibleChurch • http://
www.decaturbible.org

••••

Decatur New Hope Community Church
319 ½ West Delaware Street
Pastor Ross Tarantino
SUNDAY • Worship Service-10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY • Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
269-423-8136
info@decaturnewhopecommunity.net

MATTAWAN

Calvary Community Church
7829 S. 5th St
Pastor Gregory VanHeukelom
375-6240 • www.calvaryreformed.org
Website: https://www.calvary-community.
church/
Worship still 10 am Sunday with live Facebook
Jody's Closet, a free clothing ministry is open
Mon/Tue 10am-12 and Thur 6-7:30pm
And the 1st Saturday of the month 8:30-10am.•

•••

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
56070 Murray Street
Pastor Chuck Rawsthorne
SUNDAY
School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
(In person and on Facebook)

••••

MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
23680 Front Ave.
668-3263 • www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Eric Baird
SUNDAYS AT 10:25 A.M

••••

ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH
23830 Front Ave.
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
668-3312 • www.stjohnbosco.com
SUNDAY Mass - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
SATURDAY 4 p.m.

LAWRENCE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Corner of Exchange & James Street • 674-8381
Pastor Doug Tipken
SUNDAY Worship - 11 a.m.
lawrencemethodist-church.org
for information of online videos

GOBLES

NORTHPOINT MINISTRIES OF GOBLES
04077 M40 • 269-628-9199
northpointgobles@gmail.com
Pastors: Gary Lounsberry & John Losen Jr.
Sunday: 11am - Morning Worship
Monday: 7 pm - REFRESH Bible Study
Wednesday: 7pm - Prayer Meeting

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SPORTS

South Haven sweeps Bridgman baseball team

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven 's baseball team defeated Bridgman on April 10 in high school baseball action.

C. Hiatt had two hits and two RBIs for South Haven in a 7-3 win in the second game. South Haven had an 8-3 hits advantage and took advantage of two Bridgman errors.

E Eddy had a hit and RBI. C. Morse had a hit and walk and scored two runs. Isaac Chalupa had two runs scored Wyatt Dotson had one hit, one RBI and one run scored

J. Bevevino had a hit.

C. Morse was the winning pitcher. He allowed three runs on three hits and struck out three batters. E Eddy pitched an inning and struck out three batters.South Haven won the first game 8-0. M. Verseput was the winning pitcher. C. Pagel was the losing pitcher. E Eddy had there hits, one RBI and two runs score. C. Morse had one hit, three runs scored and two walks. Chalupa had two hits and two RBIs, Dotson had a run scored. Verseput had one hit and one RBI. Hiatt had two hits and two RBIs. R. Kozlik had one hit and one RBI. J.Schneider had two hits and one run scored.

Verseput was the winning pitcher.

Lawrence falls to Cassopolis

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — The Lawrence Tigers lost to a tough Cassopolis team Monday night 16-1.

The Tigers were hot at the plate starting with hits by Kelsey Harroun and Hailey Camp. In the third inning, Leslie Reed stole her way home earning the Tigers only run after reaching base on a walk, bringing the score of 5-1.

Yuridia San Jaun earned a hit in the fourth inning. In the circle Hailey Camp struck out 4. Despite the Tigers tough battle, the Rangers pulled away in the bottom of the 4th to end the game.

The Tigers travel to White Pigeon on Thursday for their next conference match up.

Lawrence is 0-3 overall and 0-2 in the conference.

Lawrence will be home on April 21 with Marcellus and at Decatur on April 24. Lawrence will host Bloomingdale on April 28 and will be home on May 1 against Hartford and on May 5 with Bangor. Centrevile is at Lawrence on May 8 and Cassopolis is at Lawrence on May 10

Bangor soccer team loses

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — On Monday night April 14, the Bangor Vikings soccer team hosted the Marcellus Wildcats in their first conference game and lost 1-0. Both teams battled intensely from the opening whistle.

For most of the match, neither side could break the deadlock. But with 18 minutes remaining in the game, the Wildcats capitalized on a loose ball in the box to score the night's lone goal. Despite a strong push in the final minutes, the Vikings couldn't find the equalizer, ultimately falling 1-0.

"Despite the loss, the team continues to show steady improvement, coach Antonio Gobles said. "Goalkeeper Solexey Calderon delivered another solid performance between the posts, recording five saves and keeping the Vikings in contention throughout the match.

The Vikings will travel to Hartford on Wednesday, April 16th, to take on the Huskies for their second conference game, starting at 5 p.m.

In their season's second matchup, the Bangor Vikings traveled to Buchanan last week. The Vikings had a slow start which cost them to be down on the score board by the first half.

Coming out of the break, the Vikings showed renewed energy and determination. With strong efforts from the defense and midfield to protect the goal and push forward offensively, freshman Isabella Macedo found the back of the net—scoring the Vikings' first goal of the season.

Even though the Vikings lost the game 7-1, they showed great effort. "This team will undoubtedly grow as the season progresses. Shout out to Solexey Calderon and Madgaly Gonzalez, who had great performances from start to finish," Robles said.

Several players lead Bangor baseball

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Bangor softball has been able to drive runners home from the base paths this season, hitting 0.351 with runners in scoring position.

Kazi Davis has played two positions for Bangor softball. Davis's primary position is left field.

Bangor Softball has a record of 5-1 this season. Lily Sugden's 1.786 OPS leads Bangor Softball. The third baseman has a 0.786 OBP and a 1.000 slugging percentage this season. Isabelle Horvath leads Bangor softball with 19 and two-thirds innings pitched. The starting pitcher has a 0.36 ERA this season. Alexis Wisniewski leads Bangor softball with 55 total fielding chances as a catcher.

Wiśniewski drove in five runs onto hits to lead ban good softball past Comstock on Monday 17-1. Wisniewski fouled in he sixth inning, scoring three runs and doubles int he fourth, scorign two more.

Isabelle Horvath struckout 14 batters not he da. The starter also allowed three hits n one run over six innings while walking none.

Bangor had 11 hits. Horvath had four hits. Josephine Snyder had for walks. Bangor had 14 total walks.

Bangor is 5-1 after winning the second game 21-1. Bangor scored 10 runs on four hits in the top of the second inning. Bangor scored fivers on two hits in the top of the third. Horvath earned the win for Bangor. Horvath and Wisniewski had two hits apiece for Bangor.

Paw Paw wins at home

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW —Paw Paw won both the boys and girls divisions on Saturday in the Paw Paw Lions Invitational.

Mattawan was second for the boys and third for the girls.

Gobles was second for the girls and fifth for the boys.

Lawton was third for the boys and fifth for the girls.

Winners for Paw Paw included Ben Miller in the boys 100 meters (11.44) and Taylor Thorpe in the girls 100 meters (12.92).

Thorpe also won the girls 200 meters (26.56) and 400 meters (1:00.20). Jack Nicey of Mattawan won the boys 200 meters (22.63). Landon Brown of Paw Paw won the 400 meters (53.50).

Madison Johnson won the girls 800 meters for Paw Paw (2:29.88).

Gobles boys take fifth

By John Raffel
Correspondent

The Gobles Tigers boys track and field team traveled to Paw Paw for the Lyons Invitational.

"The weather was great, providing an excellent opportunity to compete in the season's first meet," coach Marc Kline said. The boys' team finished fifth, behind Paw Paw, Mattawan, Lawton, and Dowagiac, with a total of 39 points. The meet awards included the Personal Record (PR) award, which was given to Nathan Ray for his 200m Dash in 23.98 seconds.

The Tough as Nails award went to Hunter Piper for setting a PR in the Pole Vault (8-0) and for participating in the 3200-meter run with a time of 11:35.88. Hunter volunteered to run the 3200 meters on short notice. David Sager was named MVP for placing third twice and second once. He anchored the 3200-meter relay team (Ringel, Cannon, and Salefske), where they placed third, and then finished third in the 1600-meter run (4:57.09) and second in the 800-meter run (2:12.06).

The Diamond Award went to Coal Otis for outstanding performance in sprint relays and high jump. The Tigers look forward to more opportunities in the next five weeks.

Gobles girls track team takes second

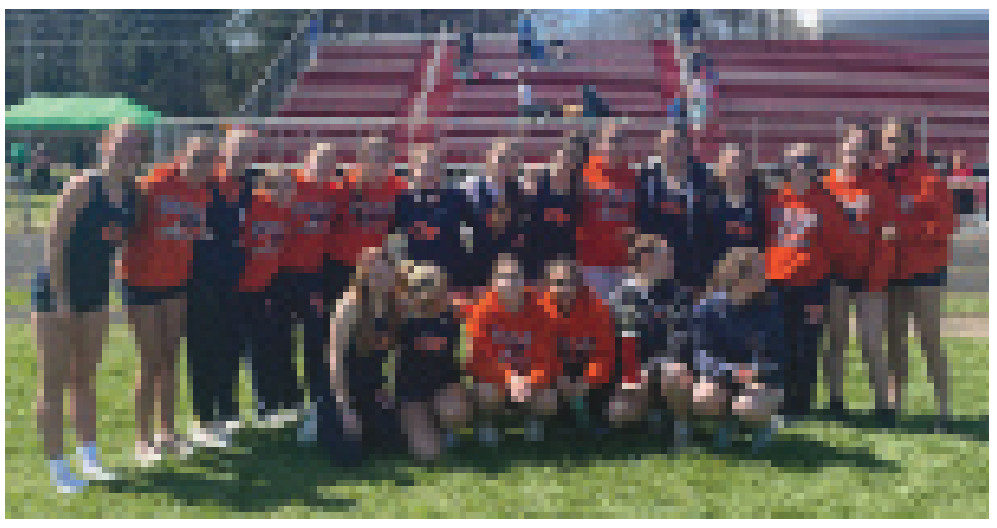
By John Raffel
Corespondent

PAW PAW — Gobles girls track and field team came home with a slew of medals and finished a close second to the host School of Paw Paw.

"Overall we set 16 personal records," " The team awarded several deserving athletes some special awards. The first one is the PR award and that went to Daisy Estrada for setting a PR in the 100 meter dash with a time of 12.95 and also in the 300 hurdles with a time of 49.58. "The second meet award is the Diamond award for being multi-faceted and versatile. This went to Ava DeYoung for being willing to step outside of her comfort zone and run on the winning 4x200 relay team along with the 4x400 and open 800. The next award was the Tough As Nails award and that went to Italian Exchange student Martina Pucello for smiling during the entire 400 meter dash.

"The final award was the meet MVP award and this went to Libby Smith for winning the 1600, 3200, and running a leg of the winning 3200 relay. The Tigers are off to a hot start and don't look to take the foot off the gas as we speed into action next on Wednesday April 16th in South Haven along with Bridgeman."

Daisy Estrada set a PR in the 100 meter dash with a time of 12.95 and also in the 300 hurdles with a time of 49.58.



Gobles girls track team won a lot of medals on Saturday at Paw Paw.

South Haven softball falls to Dowagiac

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Both teams put up a bunch of runs, but South Haven softball fell to Dowagiac Varsity Chieftains 11-9 on Friday. Dowagiac Varsity Chieftains collected eight hits, while South Haven softball had 14.

S. Grieves drove in four runners in the loss. The outfielder went 3-4 on the day.

A home run to center field by Grieves put South Haven on the board in the top of the second.

Dowagiac scored one run in the bottom of the second on a solo home run to center field by Charleigh Reed.

Dowagiac flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the fifth, scoring seven runs on five hits to take the lead, 10-4. The biggest blow in the inning was a single by Reed that drove in two.

South Haven varsity softball scored five runs on six hits in the top of the seventh inning. A. Dekoning singled, scoring one run, G. Strebeck singled, scoring one run, an error scored one run, E. Bos singled, scoring one run. Grieves singled on a long flyball off the top of the fence, which would have tied the game but only scored one run.

Rebecca Guernsey earned the win for Dowagiac. The starting pitcher gave up eight hits and four runs over three and one-third innings, striking out four and walking none. Dekoning took the loss for South Haven. The starter went four and one-third innings, surrendering six runs (five earned) on four hits, striking out four and walking three.

South Haven Softball collected 14 hits in the game. Grieves and M Dotson each collected three hits for South Haven. J. Wiley and Bos each collected multiple hits for South Haven which turned one double play in the game.

South Haven lost the second game 6-1.

E. Bos led South Haven with one run batted in. G. Strebeck went 1-for-3 at the plate to lead South Haven softball in hits.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Porter Township Van Buren County
88040 M-40 Lawton, MI 49065
REGULAR MEETING • MARCH 12, 2025

Trustee Bitely called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present – Bitely, Nesbitt, Packer, and Smith. Also present – Attorney Moraitis and five guests.

- Motion by Nesbitt with support by Packer to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 4, 2025. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Smith with support by Packer to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Nesbitt with support by Packer to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Smith with support by Packer to approve the Clerk to sign a Letter of Support for the Van Buren County Conservation District for the NextCycle Michigan Accelerator Track Program. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Packer with support by Nesbitt to approve a resolution to get bids on a building addition to the Porter Township Hall. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Nesbitt with support by Smith to approve a Resolution for Charitable Gaming License for the SuperHero Robbie Oxley Foundation. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Packer with support by Nesbitt to approve Lock Master Security to rekey the Porter Township Hall, at a rate not to exceed $4,000. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Packer with support by Nesbitt to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Smith
Porter Township Clerk

State of Michigan Judicial District 36th
Judicial Circuit County Probate
ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION
CASE: 25-074548-CZ
Court: 212 E. Paw Paw St., Paw Paw, MI 49079 • Phone: 269-657-8200

Plaintiff:
Third Party Plaintiffs
Brian W. Kelly & Kimberly Ann Kelly
280 39th St., Allegan, MI 49010
Plaintiff Attorney:
MINKA PLC by Imants M. Minka (P29211)
5987 West Main St., Ste 812, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-353-0100
iminka@minkalaw.com
V.
Defendant:
Third Party Defendants
Kimberly M. Christenson
25247 Elm Street
Calumet, MI 49913
and,
Walter Henry Clare, II
Address & Whereabouts unknown

TO: WALTER HENRY CLARE, II

IT IS ORDERED:

1. You are being sued in this court by the plaintiff to **Defend in a lawsuit to quiet title to land located at 00360 51 1/2 Street, Grand Junction, MI 49056.** You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before **April 14,2025 (04/14/2025)**. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.
2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in three consecutive weeks, **Courier Leader** for, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

March 12,2025
Judge Susan Metzger

State of Michigan
PROBATE COURT VAN BUREN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case No. 2025-1061-DE • Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of DENNIS L. AMM, DECEASED

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Dennis L. Amm, died March 3, 2025 (3/3/2025)

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Donald L. Amm**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Ste. 220, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

April 14, 2025

Attorney:
Schuitmaker Moraitis Law Office, P.C.
Christopher N. Moraitis P87052
181 West Michigan Ave., Ste. 1, P.O.Box 520
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-3177
Personal Representative:
Donald L. Amm
62352 31st Avenue
Lawton, MI 49065
269-744-0330

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: MICHAEL EDGELL; ATTY: SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, P.C. - SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, PC; 1ST PUB: 4/3/2025; ATTY FILE #: 25-000805-1; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on May 08, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Michael Edgell a/k/a Michael D. Edgell married to Stephanie Edgell, signing to release dower Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: December 21, 2023 Recorded on December 28, 2023, Liber 1760, on Page 531, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Eight Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Eight and 12/100 Dollars ($208,168.12) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 44, Sunset Estates, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 31 Commonly known as 25851 Pleasant Dr, Mattawan, MI 49071 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1557729

(04-03)(04-24)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: PAUL JOHN MCFARLAND; ATTY: SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, P.C. - SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, PC; 1ST PUB: 3/27/2025; ATTY FILE #: 24-001906-2; INSURER: FHLMC
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 24, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Paul John McFarland, a married man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: April 15, 2016 Recorded on May 24, 2016, Liber 1636, on Page 556, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Seventy-Three Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Five and 40/100 Dollars ($73,355.40) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 24, Harrison Acres, Paw Paw Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 39. Commonly known as 56111 39th St, Paw Paw, MI 49079 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale will be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1557056

(03-27)(04-17)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: BROOKS COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE LLC; ATTY: FOSTER, SWIFT, COLLINS & SMITH, P.C. - BENJAMIN J. PRICE ; 1ST PUB: 3/27/2025; ATTY FILE #: (N/A); INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE SALE ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m. on May 1, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. DEFAULT having been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage made on April 17, 2023, by Brooks Commercial Real Estate LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, as Mortgagor, given by it to Commercial Bank, a Michigan banking corporation, as Mortgagee, recorded on May 1, 2023, in Liber 1752, Page 219, Van Buren County Records; on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due and unpaid, as of the date of this Notice, the sum of Three Hundred Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-One and 57/100 Dollars ($320,481.57); and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt or any part thereof secured by said Mortgage, and the power of sale in said Mortgage having become operative by reason of such default; NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon, at the front steps of the Courthouse in Paw Paw, Michigan, that being one of the places for holding the Circuit Court for Van Buren County, there will be offered for sale and sold to the highest bidder or bidders at public auction or venue for purposes of satisfying the amounts due and unpaid on said Mortgage, together with all allowable costs of sale and includable attorney fees, the lands and premises in said Mortgage mentioned and described as follows: SITUATED IN THE CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN, COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN: Parcel 1: The East 22 feet of the West 44.0 feet of Lot 1 and also the East 22.0 feet of the West 44.0 feet of Lot 2, Block 9, Hale, Conger and Company's Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven, EXCEPTING therefrom the North 16.50 feet of the above described lands, City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan. Parcel 2: Beginning at a point on the South line of Lot 12, Block 9, Hale, Conger and Company's Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven, 222.50 feet East of the Southwest corner of said lot; thence Northerly and parallel with the East line of said lot, 132.0 feet; thence Easterly to the Northwest corner of Lot 2; thence Southerly to the Southwest corner of Lot 1; thence Westerly along South line of Lot 12 to the place of beginning, EXCEPTING therefrom the North 16.5 feet. ALSO the West 22 feet of Lots 1 and 2, EXCEPTING therefrom the North 16.5 feet of the West 22.0 feet of Lot 2, Block 9, Hale, Conger and Company's Addition to the City of South Haven, City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan. Parcel 3: The East 22 feet of the West 1/2 of Lots 1 and 2, EXCEPT the North 16.5 feet thereof, Block 9, Hale, Conger and Company's Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven, according to the recorded plat in Liber 25 of Plats, Page 470, Van Buren County Records, being a part of the Southeast fractional 1/4 of Section 3, Town 1 South, Range 17 West, according to the government survey thereof, City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan. Parcel 4: The North 16.5 feet of Lot 2, Block 9, Hale, Conger and Company's Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven. ALSO commencing at the Southwest corner of Lot 12; thence Easterly along the South line of said lot 222.5 feet; thence Northerly parallel of the East line of said lot 115.5 feet to the beginning of this description; thence continuing Northerly parallel to the Easterly line of said lot 16.5 feet; thence Easterly to the Northwest corner of Lot 2; thence Southerly along the West line of said Lot 2, 16.5 feet; thence Westerly to the place of beginning, being in Block 9, Hale Conger and Company's Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven, City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan. Commonly known as: 559 Phoenix Street, South Haven, Michigan 49090 Parcel Number: 80-53-769-001-50 The period within which the above premises may be redeemed shall expire six (6) months from the date of sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the mortgagor(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. This notice is from a debt collector. Dated: March 20, 2025 COMMERCIAL BANK of Alma, Michigan, Mortgagee FOSTER, SWIFT, COLLINS & SMITH, P.C. Benjamin J. Price Attorneys for Mortgagee 313 S. Washington Square Lansing, MI 48933 (517) 371-8253

(03-27)(04-17)

VAN BUREN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF BIENNIAL ELECTION
Monday, June 2, 2025

Please take notice that one representative of each constituent school district within the Van Buren Intermediate School District boundaries will meet on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 5:00 PM, at the Van Buren Intermediate School District Administrative Office, 490 South Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, Michigan.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect two (2) members to the Van Buren Intermediate School District Board of Education. The two (2) vacancies will be filled for a term of six (6) years, expiring June 30, 2031.

Any individual interested in this position may pick up petitions and information from Suzie Roehm, Van Buren County Clerk, 212 Paw Paw Street, Suite 101, Paw Paw, Michigan, 49079. The phone number is (269) 657 – 8218. All candidates must be registered voters within the Van Buren Intermediate School District boundaries. The **deadline for filing petitions is Friday, May 2, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**

The board of education of each constituent school district shall designate one representative as the voting delegate to said meeting.

_____
John Faul, Secretary
Van Buren Intermediate School District
Board of Education

MSHDA
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

April 17, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE STATE OF MICHIGAN'S DRAFT FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2025-2029

Michigan is required to prepare a formal State of Michigan Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan (the Consolidated Plan). The Consolidated Plan proposes an action strategy by which needs will be addressed through five program years. The consolidated plan being proposed covers FY25 through FY 29 anticipated allocations. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) is responsible for preparing and soliciting comments from the public regarding the draft plan and its subsequent amendments.

The **comment period** will commence on Thursday, April 17, 2025, and end on Friday, May 16, 2025. In-person public hearings will be held at the MSHDA Lansing office, 735 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, from 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm and at the MSHDA Detroit office, 3028 W. Grand Boulevard 4-600, Detroit on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, from 1 -2 pm. A special virtual public hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 from 9 am – 9:30 am via Microsoft Teams, Meeting ID: 235 535 525 234 7, Passcode: JP9or2Vi OR call in (audio only) +1 248-509-0316, 750 034 541#, Phone Conference ID: 750 034 541#.

Introduction
Prior to submission for further funding from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development, Michigan is required to publish a five year plan document for public review and comment. The Consolidated Plan proposes an action strategy by which programmatic fund needs will be addressed and reflects activities for program years 2025-2029 beginning July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2030. The plan consists of funding by applicable formula programs: HOME, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and all related programs including CDBG Disaster Recovery, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDs (HOPWA), the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), the Recovery Housing Program (RHP), and the Housing Trust Fund (HTF). The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) is responsible for preparing the five year plan, annual action plans, as well as the annual Michigan Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and soliciting comments from the public regarding the outcomes tied to the draft Plan and reporting outcomes on an annual basis thereafter. A link to the proposed draft five year plan can be found at https://www.michigan.gov/mshda/neighborhoods/michigan-consolidated-plan.

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments directly related to the draft Michigan Consolidated Action Plan. Information gathered during the written comment period will be used to substantiate a formal five year Michigan Consolidated Plan.

Individuals and organizations may submit written comments to Tonya Joy, 735 East Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 30044, Lansing, MI 48909. **Written comments must be received no later than May 16, 2025**. Comments can also be submitted to the MSHDA Consolidated Plan Coordinator via e-mail to mshda-cdbg@michigan.gov.

Copies of the Michigan Consolidated Action Plan may be downloaded free of charge from the MSHDA website link above.

Special Assistance: Feedback is encouraged from mobility-challenged individuals. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation should contact the MSHDA Neighborhood Development Division at 517-335-2524 to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

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FARMERS ARE REMINDED TO KEEP RIGHT-OF-WAY CROP FREE

"We Mow - So Don't Sow!"

With spring quickly approaching, area farmers are anxiously awaiting another planting season. But before spring tillage and planting gets underway, the Van Buren County Road Commission wants to remind farmers that crops must be a minimum of 14' from the road's edge, or behind the "back slope" of an existing ditch. Any crops planted in the right-of-way are there at the farmers' risk and no compensation for loss of crops in the right-of-way will be considered pursuant to Road Commission Policy 2022-02.

Because the Road Commission maintains the right-of-way by performing mowing cycles to keep roadsides and intersections clear and suitable for travel, farmers should be aware that any crops planted within the right-of-way will be mowed. The Road Commission also performs roadside chemical vegetation management in the late summer to control brush and woody vegetation within the road right-of-way. The road right-of-way is specifically reserved for the placement of road signs, and public utilities. The road right-of-way is typically a width of 66 feet (33 feet on either side of the centerline of the road).

To review a copy of the Board of County Road Commission's Policy 2022-02, Right-of-Way Mowing, Brush Control & Spraying Policy visit the Road Commission's website at: **https://www.vbcrc.org/policies**, or contact the Road Commission's Managing Director, Bret Witkowski, at 269-674-8011, Extension 222, **BretWitkowski@vbcrc.org.** The Road Commission's Policy complies with the standards created by law (MCL 247.665b).

PORTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF BUDGET WORKSHOP

Porter Township
will hold a budget workshop
on Wednesday, May 14, 2025
at 6:15 pm
at the Porter Township Hall
88040 M-40 Highway
Lawton, MI 49065
to create a budget for fiscal year 2025-2026.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities
planning to attend upon adequate notice to Heather Smith, Porter Township Clerk, in writing, or by calling the Township at (269) 624-4022.

PORTER TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Porter Township is requesting proposals from qualified builders / contractors to construct an addition to the Porter Township Hall, to house Senior Services activities and other activities, in Porter Township, Michigan.

Scope of Work

Each SEALED PROPOSAL shall include construction of the building, excavating, concrete, floor drain, plumbing to existing septic system, electrical, floor heat, etc. as needed to construct a 1628 square foot addition to the Porter Township Hall at 88040 M-40 Highway, Lawton, Michigan. LOCAL BUILDERS/CONTRACTORS WILL BE GIVEN PREFERENCE.

Bid package including Architect plans, specifications and Site plan can be purchased for $20.00.

Proposal Due Date: JUNE 2, 2025, at 3:00 P.M. Copies of the proposals can be hand delivered to the Porter Township Hall located at 88040 M-40 Highway, Lawton, Michigan, or to Supervisor Chris Oxley, or Treasurer Andy Nesbitt.

Estimated Time Line:

- Township Board to open sealed proposals: Special meeting June 11, 2025, at 6:15 pm, Porter Township Hall
- Conduct interviews, if needed: June 20, 2025, at 6pm
- Select builder: July 9, 2025 at regular Board meeting
- Finalize contract: July 25, 2025
- Begin Project: Immediately upon contract being finalized.

To pick up/purchase documents and for further information contact:

Chris Oxley, Supervisor
Porter Township
88040 M-40 Hwy., Lawton, Michigan
Telephone No.: (269) 370-1190

OR

Andy Nesbitt, Treasurer
Porter Township
88040 M-40 Hwy., Lawton, Michigan
Telephone No.: (269) 720-4275

Advertisement for Request for Proposals Mattawan Consolidated School/AVB Construction

AVB Construction, LLC is preparing to replace carpeting in the high school and the middle school for Mattawan Consolidated Schools. Bid information is now available:

Contact Wendy Lockner for access to bidders' instructions, plans and specifications: wlockner@avbinc.com 860-874-9577

Bid documents may also be found on the Mattawan Consolidated School website at mattawanschools.org

Sealed bids are due: Friday, April 25th at 1:00 PM EST at the Mattawan Consolidated Schools Central Office (ATTN Pam)
56720 Murray St. Mattawan, MI 49071
There will be a public bid opening to follow in the Board Room.

Please contact Pam Stermer – CFO with general bid questions at: pstermer@mattawanschools.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ANTWERP TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Antwerp Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding the following request. Public comments on the matter are welcomed.

Application

- **Request:** Special land use request for a non-commercial dog kennel (over 10 dogs)
- **Zoning District:** Agricultural and Open Space Residential (AG)
- **Project Address:** 68333 County Road 652, Lawton, MI 49065
- **Project Parcel Number:** 80-02-035-001-02
- **Applicant:** Jennifer and Tammy VanNiman

Meeting and Hearing Information

- **Location:** Antwerp Township offices located at 24821 Front Street, Mattawan, MI 49071
- **Date:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025
- **Time:** 6:30 PM
- **Project Details:** call (269) 668-2615

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Planning Commission Chair at the Township Hall address listed above by 4:00 PM on the meeting date.

If any individual has a physical disability that may limit their participation in the hearing, please notify the Township at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

VILLAGE OF DECATUR VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDINANCE NO. 2025-002 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP PROVIDED BY SECTION 42-6 OF THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR ZONING ORDINANCE TO REZONE FIFTEEN PARCELS IN THE HARRISON'S ADDITION OF THE VILLAGE FROM INDUSTRIAL TO ONE AND TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-1)

The Village of Decatur ordains:

Section 1. Amendment. The zoning map provided pursuant to section 42-6 of the Village of Decatur Zoning Ordinance is amended to show that the following parcels are rezoned to be in the Village's One and Two Family Residential (R-1) District and no longer in the Industrial District:

80-43-040-598-00	80-43-040-595-00	80-43-040-594-00
80-43-040-596-00	80-43-055-008-03	80-43-055-006-11
80-43-055-009-00	80-43-055-004-10	80-43-055-004-00
80-43-055-005-00	80-43-055-002-00	80-43-055-001-01
80-43-040-597-10	80-43-040-597-00	80-43-055-003-00

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect seven days after its publication.

YEAS: Beute, Jackson, Janssen, Mead Jr., Pachner, Pelfrey, Elwaer
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

CERTIFICATION

This is a true and complete copy of Ordinance No. 2025-002 adopted at a regular meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Decatur at a regular meeting held on April 7, 2025.

Megan Duncan, Village Clerk

ATTENTION:

BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Bloomingdale Township will be holding a Special Election on May 6, 2025, in an attempt to regain our former Road Millage (voted down in November 2024). This millage is **NOT** new, it is in fact the same millage our community has had for over twenty (20) years. The dollars collected from this millage are used to maintain our communities' local roads, not to be confused with County roads (CR). Currently our roads are in very good condition, some of the best in the County. Here in the Michigan weather, our communities' roads will deteriorate rapidly without this millage. As our community stands right now, going into the 2025/2026 fiscal year Bloomingdale Township has NO road millage, as in zero dollars to maintain them.

So, **PLEASE** vote **YES** on May 6, 2025 and save our roads!!
REMEMBER THIS MILLAGE IS NOT NEW!!!

Thank You, Ad paid for by Melanie Kelly

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April's 54th birthday.
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MAYFLOWER DAIRY LLC SEEKS ANIMAL SCIENTIST
(MULTIPLE OPENINGS) IN DECATUR, MI.

Qualified candidates must have Bachelor's degree in Animal Science, Veterinary Medicine, Agronomic Engineering, or related.
Housing benefit available.
Interested candidates should submit a resume & cover letter to HR, Mayflower Dairy, 588 3 Mile Rd NW, Ste 101, Grand Rapids MI 49544

Road Commission receives second statewide IMPRESS award

LAWRENCE - The Van Buren County Road Commission (VBCRC) has received its second statewide IMPRESS Award from the County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan for its innovative Paint-a-Plow Program.

The Paint-a-Plow Program fostered community collaboration by partnering with local schools to promote safe driving and highlight careers in transportation. "The program created a fun and creative way to engage students and raise awareness about road safety," said VBCRC Managing Director Bret Witkowski. "Thousands of community members participated by sharing and voting for their favorite plow designs created by local students. Feedback from teachers and administrators showed the program sparked meaningful discussions about snow plowing and road safety."

Out of 12 invitations extended to high schools and the Van Buren Intermediate School District's (VBISD) Tech Center, seven schools participated, with their art classes painting the plows. Once completed, the plows were displayed at the VBCRC Administrative Office, where a competition added an extra layer of excitement. Gobles High School emerged as the winner, earning a pizza party sponsored by Witkowski.

The Paint-a-Plow Program exemplifies VBCRC's commitment to community involvement and innovation, earning recognition among Michigan's 83 county road agencies reviewed by an independent panel of experts.

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